

2005 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THE 2005 INDEX TOTAL

The Crime Index is composed of selected offenses used to gauge fluctuations in the overall volume and rate of crime reported to police. The offenses included are the violent crimes of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault; and the property crimes of burglary, larceny, and auto theft. The Crime Index was developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting program to standardize the way in which law enforcement agencies report crime statistics.

The 3,814 serious crimes recorded in Cambridge in 2005 represents City's lowest Uniform Crime Reporting Index number reported to the FBI in over forty years. The City of Cambridge has recorded fewer than 4000 serious crimes twice since 1960. The serious crime index had not varied from a total of between 4350 and 4450 in six of the past seven years. The 2005 decline of 12%, 505 fewer incidents than in 2004, represents third largest yearly decline since 1980. Further analysis indicates that violent crime remained relatively unchanged in Cambridge in 2005 with three fewer incidents registered in the index count. The 14% decline in Burglary, a 10% drop in Larceny, and a 33% slide in Auto theft propelled the 13% fall in property crime when compared with the 2004 figures.

MURDER:

- Murders in Cambridge most often fall into three distinct scenarios: domestic situations, drug or gang related altercations, and homeless against homeless street fights. Three people died Cambridge in 2005 as the result of domestic and acquaintance-related incidents.
- Nationally, cities of 100,000 people average 10 murders per year.
- The first incident was domestic in nature. Math teacher Andrea Harvey was found strangled in her bedroom in February 2005. Her husband was tracked to North Carolina and arrested for this offense, for which no motive was indicated.
- The second and third murders took place in early August, when eight year old Regina Antoine and her grandmother Benita Antoine, 76, died as a result of a fire set in their building by suspect Kevin Robinson. Robinson, who was a previous tenant of the same building, allegedly had ongoing problems with the building's landlord. Robinson was indicted on murder and arson charges in September of 2005.
- In the past 10 years there have been 21 people murdered in Cambridge.

RAPE

- Cambridge reported 14 rapes in 2005. This year's total remains below the 10 year average of 16 rapes per year.
- Ten of the 14 rapes in 2005 were completed acts and four of the incidents were categorized as attempts.
- Six of the 10 completed rapes in 2005 were acquaintance rapes where the victim knew the perpetrator.
- Since 1980, there has only been one stranger-to-stranger "street" rape pattern in Cambridge: the "Rainy Day Rapist" who preyed on victims in the Fresh Pond area on rainy days in 1981.
- The most notable reports came in late September, and involved a man posing as a taxi driver, picking women up in Boston's Financial District between 1– 3:00 a.m. The suspect transported the women to the vicinity of the Alewife MBTA Station, where he assaulted them. The suspect was linked by DNA in the cases and is awaiting trial for the rapes.

ROBBERY

- Robberies in the City had been slowly increasing in number since 2001. This trend ended in 2005, when robberies decreased 2.4% overall compared to 2004. There were 239 robberies in 2005.
- Convenience stores were the most common target of commercial robbers in 2005. Approximately 23% of the robberies in 2005 were of convenience stores, and the majority of these incidents occurred in the early morning hours between midnight and 3 a.m.
- Robberies of gas stations in 2004 increased 200% over 2003, and gas station targets remained high in 2005. The majority of suspects in these cases were males who appeared to be in their 20's or 30's.

- The number of street robberies reported in 2005 decreased by 10% over the previous year, marking the lowest total since 2002. Approximately 71% of the time, a weapon was used (or threatened) in the commission of a street robbery.
- The majority of street robberies throughout the city occurred between 7 and 11:00 p.m., or between 2-3:00 am. These are common times for street robberies to be reported because people are walking home after work or after the bars close.

BURGLARY

- Cambridge saw a 14% decrease in burglaries between 2004 and 2005.
- There was a 4% decrease in commercial burglaries in the City from 2004 to 2005.
- A professional commercial burglary pattern persisted throughout the City in 2005. These burglaries were marked by methodical entry into buildings, including cutting holes through the walls of adjacent businesses, and the theft of safes and large sums of money.
- Housebreaks were down 16% in Cambridge in 2005 compared to 2004. This total includes 74 incidents that were attempted, but not completed housebreaks.
- Six percent of all reported housebreak victims named an acquaintance as a suspect, including friends, roommates, or neighbors. An additional 4% of incidents were categorized as domestic, perpetrated by family members, ex-boyfriends, etc.

LARCENY

- There was an overall decrease in larceny incidents this year in comparison to 2004. Victims reported 2,396 larcenies in 2005.
- There were 539 larcenies from buildings reported this year. This total represents a 6% decrease from the previous year, and is consistent with the five-year average of 535 incidents annually.
- The three major hot spots of larceny from buildings in 2005 were the Cambridgeside Galleria Mall, Bally's Health Club, and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School.
- There were 615 larcenies from motor vehicles, a 16% decrease over 2004 totals. This total is 11% lower than the five year average of 691 incidents.
- There were two recurrent larceny from motor vehicle patterns throughout the City in 2005: theft of headlights and later in the year the theft of GPS navigation systems.
- Seven percent of all reported larcenies from motor vehicles involved the theft or attempted theft of automobile headlights. Of those incidents, half were headlight thefts from Audi's.
- The most common method of entry into motor vehicles in 2005 was by breaking one or more windows of the vehicle. This method was reported in 35% of the incidents.

AUTO THEFT

- In 2005 Cambridge reported its lowest number of stolen cars in over 20 years, with only 295 incidents.
- Hondas were by far the most commonly stolen automobiles of 2005, constituting 32% of all reports. Toyotas and Fords, approximately 30 incidents each, came in second and third place. This information is consistent with historical and national trends.
- The most targeted model this year was the Honda Civic, followed by the Accord and the Acura Integra.
- Approximately 50% of the cars reported stolen in 2005 have been recovered to date. The majority of the recovered cars were located throughout Cambridge and Boston.